

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

As stated above, Applicants elect Species III, shown in FIGS. 15-17, with Claims 1-9, 12 and 13 readable thereon, and respectfully traverse the requirement for restriction for the following reasons:

It is respectfully submitted, as stated above, that FIGS. 4-6 should also be considered part of Species III. As is indicated at page 24 of the disclosure, a hollow needle container 2 and a hollow needle fixing device 4 of the embodiment of FIG. 15 are configured in comparable manner to that shown in FIGS. 4-6.

In addition, it is believed that any search for the Species embodied in Group III would necessarily include a search of the Species embodied in the remaining groups. Thus, the simultaneously for all of the Species is believed not to constitute an unreasonable search for the Patent Examiner.

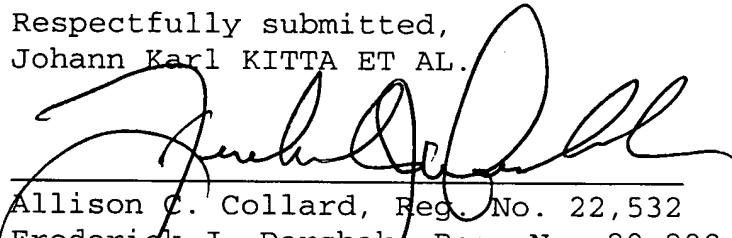
In addition, it is believed that the objectives of streamlined examination and compact prosecution would be promoted if a search were conducted simultaneously for all of the Species. Also, the necessity of filing multiple patent applications in this case does not serve to promote the public interest because

of the extra expense that is involved, in filing fees and examination costs, as well as the burden upon the public due to the necessity of searching through a multiplicity of patent files in order to find the complete range of subject matter claimed in several different patents that could otherwise be found in one issued patent only.

Applicants reserve the right to file divisional applications for the non-elected species.

For all these reasons, it is respectfully requested that the restriction requirement under 35 U.S.C. §121 be withdrawn, and that an action on the merits of all the claims be rendered.

Respectfully submitted,
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